Concerning the

ANTIQUITY

OF THE

People of God,

CALLED

QUAKERS;

THEIR

Worſhip; Their *Mother*, *New* and *Heavenly Jeruſalem*; Their *Faith*, and who is the *Author* and *Finiſher* of it; Their *Belief*; Their *Way*; Their *Original*; Their *Hope*, diſtinct from the *Hope* of the *Hypocrite* that Periſhes; Their *Goſpel*; The *True Miniſters*; Their *Leader* and *Teacher*, and that which gives them *Knowledge*; Their *Mediator*; Their *Overſeer*; The *Church* of *Chriſt's Prayer*, and in *what*; Their *Croſs*; and Their *Baptiſm*.

QUEBEC CANT. ACAD.

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I. *Concerning the Antiquity of our Worſhip.*

IT is that which Chriſt ſet up above 1600 years ago, which, when he put down the Jews Worſhip at the Temple at *Jeruſalem*; and the *Samaritans* Worſhip at the Mountain of *Jacobs* VVell; ſaying, *The Hour cometh and now is, they that Worſhip the Father, muſt worſhip him in the Spirit and in the Truth.* And this VVorſhip *in the Spirit and in the Truth*, is above all the VVill-worſhipers, and Dragon-worſhipers, and the VVorſhippers of the Beaſt: for God hath poured out of his Spirit upon all Fleſh, and Grace and Truth is come by Jeſus; and this Spirit and Truth is in the Hearts and inward parts of People, that with this Spirit of Truth they may know the God of Truth; and in the Spirit of Truth, ſerve and worſhip the God of Truth; which pure Truth and Holy Spirit, the Devil, the foul Spirit, and all his VVorſhippers, are out of, and cannot come into, for there is no Truth in him. And this is our pure and perfect ſtanding VVorſhip, which Chriſt the Son of God ſet up above 1600 years ago.

II. *Concerning the Antiquity of our Religion.*

WHich was ſet up by Chriſt in his Apoſtles, above 1600 years ago, who ſaith, *That pure Religion and undefiled before God is this, to viſit the Widdows and the Fatherleſs; and to keep themſelves unſpotted from the World.* And this pure undefiled Religion, which brings to viſit the VVidows and the Fatherleſs, is above all the unpure, vain, defiled Religions, that do not bridle Peoples Tongues, nor keep them from the Spots of the VVorld: and their VVidows and their Fatherleſs go a Begging about the Streets, and not taken in, Fed, nor Cloathed, nor viſited. And this is below the pure undefiled Chriſtian Religion, that was ſet up among the primitive Chriſtians, in the Apoſtles daies, which is our pure undefiled Religion.

III. *Concerning the Antiquity of our Mother, New and Heavenly* Jeruſalem.

SHE is the ſame as She was confeſt to by the Apoſtles, in the primitive times, above 1600 years ago, who ſaid *Jeruſalem*, that is below is in Bondage with her Children, but *Jeruſalem* that is above is free, which is the Mother of us all; which is the Mother of all the true Believers in the Light; the Life in Chriſt, who walk in the Light of Heavenly *Jeruſalem* their Mother. And they that receive Chriſt to them, he gives Power to become the Sons of God. And ſo are the Children of Heavenly *Jeruſalem*, *The Bride, the Lambs Wife, which is free*; as in *Gal.* 4. 25. And the Apoſtle ſaith to the Church of Chriſt, the *Hebrews*, *Ye are come to Heavenly* Jeruſalem; *and to the innumerable company of Angels*; *and to the Aſſembly and Congregation of the Firſt Born, which are written in Heaven*; *and to God the Judge of all*; *And to the Spirits of juſt men made perfect*; Heb. 12. 22. 23.

Now here you may ſee, that the Saints were come in the Apoſtles daies to *Heavenly Jeruſalem* their Mother; and to an innumerable Company of Angels; And to the Spirits of juſt men made perfect; And to the Congregation of the Firſt Born, written in Heaven, while they were upon the Earth. And this *Heavenly Jeruſalem* that is free, is the true Mother of all the true Chriſtians now: for us all by Nature are Born Natural, ſo all the true Believers in Chriſt are Born again; for he that Believes, is Born of God, ſo Born Spiritually, and ſuch are Heavenly *Jeruſalems Children*.

And again, *John* in the *Revelations* ſaw this Holy and Heavenly *Jeruſalem*, deſcending out of Heaven, from God, prepared as a Bride Adorned for her Husband; and there ſhall enter into it no unclean thing, nor whatſoever worketh Abomination, or maketh a Lye; but they which are written in the Lambs Book of Life, *Rev.* 21. 2. and *Rev.* 10. 27.

Now here you may ſee, there is three Witneſſes or Teſtimonies that do confirm *Heavenly Jeruſalem*, that is above and free, to be the Mother of us all, that Believe in Chriſt and receive him, to whom He hath given them power to become the Sons of God and Children of the Light, by Believing in His Light, and Children

of

of the Day: And ſo this Spiritual Birth knows *Heavenly Jeruſalem* their Mother, and walk in the Light of their Mother, *Heavenly Jeruſalem*, whoſe Light is the Lord God and the Lamb. Now this *Heavenly Jeruſalem*, our Mother, comes down from Heaven, that brings forth her Free-born Children; and the power and Light is from Chriſt, who is from above; through whoſe power and Light they become Children of God, and Children of the Light, and of *Heavenly Jeruſalem*, where there is no Night; and ſo are Nurſed up in the Arms and Boſome of *Heavenly Jeruſalem*, their Mother, who Feeds them with Milk of the Word, and they grow by it.

For the *Lord* ſaith, *The Law ſhall go out of* Sion, *and the word of the Lord from* Jeruſalem. *Micah*, 4. 2. Is not this Heavenly *Sion*, and Heavenly *Jeruſalem*? And that the Word ſhall not depart out of the Mouths of Heavenly *Jeruſalems* Seed and Children: yea, not out of the Mouth of its Seed Seed, but the word of power, and of Patience, and of Wiſdom, ſhall abide in the Mouth of its Seed Seed; namely, all *Heavenly Jeruſalem*, our Mothers Spiritual Children in the New Covenant, and New Teſtament, which can not joyn to, nor own any Mother Church below her that is *Heavenly*. And here is the Antiquity of our Mother acknowledged, to be the Mother of all true Chriſtians in the Apoſtles Days, and now. And in our Mother *Heavenly Jeruſalems* Children, is *Love* of Loves, and Joy of Joyes; above all Joyes and *Loves* below, that will paſs away.

IV. *Now concerning the* Antiquity *from whence we have our* Faith, *and who is the* Author *and* Finiſher *of it.*

THE *Apoſtle* ſaith to the Church of Chriſt, the *Hebrews*; *Let us run with patience the Race that is ſet before us; Looking unto* JESUS, *the Author and Finiſher of our Faith.* Heb. 12. 1. 2.

Now here you may ſee the *Apoſtles* did not make the *Saints* a Faith, but bid them look unto JESUS, who was the *Author*, or Beginner and Finiſher of their Divine, *Holy* and Precious Faith; the Myſtery of which is held in a pure Conſcience: *And* ſo *Chriſt* doth reveal His Faith to His People; and ſo they grow in Faith,

from Faith to Faith up unto Christ, the Author and Finisher of it. So the Apostle did not say to the Saints, the Church of Christ, look unto us to make you a Faith, and that they should be the Author and Finisher of their Faith, for them; but bid them look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of their Faith: and so this was the Apostles Doctrine to the *Christians* in the *primitive Times*, above 1600 Years ago; and this is the Doctrine that we have received and own, who do look at none below Jesus Christ, to be the Author and Finisher of our Holy, Precious and Divine Faith; in which Faith all God's People please him, and have access to him; which Faith is our Victory over that which displeases God, and in which Holy Faith, is our Holy Unity, and by this Precious Faith, all the Just Live; and this is the One, Holy, Pure, Precious, and Divine Faith, that purifies the Hearts of God's People, which Christ is the Author and Finisher of; in which they have access to the Holy God, and serve and please Him. So our Holy, Divine, Catholick, or Universal Faith, Christ is the Beginner, or Author and Finisher of; in which Holy Faith the Church of Christ did, and do Build one another up in, which (as before) Christ the Holy One, is the Author and Finisher of, and not Men.

V. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of our* Belief.

CHRIST, the Heavenly Man, and Second *Adam*, doth Enlighten every One that comes into the World, with His Heavenly Spiritual Light, which is the Life in him, the Word, and by Him the Word, all things were Made and Created: and Christ saith, *Believe in the Light, that you may become Children of the Light.* And so we Believing in the Light, the Life in Christ, are become Children of the Light, and so are grafted into him, the Life, in whom we have the Light of Life, and so are past from the death in *Adam*, to the Life in *CHRIST*, the Second *Adam*; and as the Apostle saith, *He that Believes, is Born of God, and overcomes the World*: and these are the true and living Members; or the living Stones that make up the Spiritual Houshold, the Church of *Christ*, which He is the Holy Head of; and as the Apostle saith, *Is given us to Believe*; so *Christ* hath given us a Light, which is the Life in himself; and saith believe in the Light; so we Believe in that

which

which Christ hath given us, and commandeth and teacheth us to Believe in, namely, the Light, which is the Life in Him, by which we may see him and know him, and that we may become Children of the Light, and of the Day of Christ; and this Light shining in our Hearts, it gives us the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Christ Jesus: and this is the Treasure which we have in our Earthen Vessels; and after we do Believe, we are sealed with God's Spirit, and can set to our Seal, having the Witness in our selves that God is true in all his Promises, and Prophets, and Types and Shadows in the Law, concerning his Son Christ Jesus, in whom we do Believe, who is our Heavenly Rock and Foundation to Build upon in his Heavenly Divine Light; and all the Foundations that Men lay below Christ, we cannot Build upon; for we Believe in the Light, the Life in Christ, and are grafted into him: *And Christ saith, He that Believeth in Me hath Eternal Life: And they that do the Work of God, Believe in the Son God that he hath sent; and he that Believeth shall not perish, but hath Everlasting Life.* And Christ said to *Martha*, *He that Believeth, though he were Dead, yet shall he Live; and he that Liveth and Believeth shall never Dye.* This is the True and Living Belief, that Christ hath taught us: and he hath given us his Light to Believe in; which Belief is Distinct from all false Beliefs that Men make and teach.

VI. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of our* Way.

CHRIST JESUS Said, *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no Man cometh to the Father, but by Me.* John 14. 6.

So Christ is the New and Living Way, which God hath Consecrated for us, as in *Heb.* 8. 20. And this New and Living Way Christ set up Himself, above 1600 Years ago, by which we come to God. And as *David* said; *As for God, His Way is perfect; and it is God that Girdeth me with His Strength, and maketh my Way perfect.* Psal. 18. 30, 32.

And again, *David* saith, *Wherewith shall a Young Man cleanse his Way, by taking heed according to Thy Word.* Psal. 119. 9. So the Word will keep out of Defiled Ways.

And

And as *Solomon* ſaith, *The Way or Path of the Juſt is a ſhining Light, which ſhines more and more unto the perfect Day.* Prov. 4. 18. *But the Way of the Wicked is Darkneſs, and they know not at what they Stumble.* And that is the Condition of them that hate the Light. *The Juſt Man's Way or Path, and the Way of the Juſt is Uprightneſs; and Thou moſt Upright God, doſt Weigh the path of the Juſt.* Iſa. 26. 7.

And you that have been aſtray from the Light, have not you heard the Word from behind you ſay, This is the Way, walk in it, Iſa. 30. 21.

And all you that have heard the Word Chriſt, and ſo turned to him, the Light, and the Way; you know the Scripture fulfilled, the *Old Teſtament* was the good old Way for the *Jews* to walk in; but *Chriſt* in the *New Teſtament*, is the New and Living Way to God, to them that Believe and Walk in him; for God hath given Chriſt to be a Governour and Leader for his People and to be his Salvation to the ends of the Earth; So Chriſt, who is our Leader, is our Counſellour and Salvation, and Way to God, and there is no other Way to the Father, but by Him, who hath Dyed for our Sins, and is Riſen for our Juſtification.

VII. *Concerning the* Original.

JOHN ſaith, *In the Beginning was the word,* &c. *And all things were made by the word; and without the word was not any thing made, that was made.* John 1. 9. *And the Apoſtles were Preachers of the word.* Acts 15. 25. and 9. 9. And the Apoſtle ſaid, *the Word is nigh thee, in thy Heart and in thy Mouth; and this is the word of Faith which we Preach.* Rom. 10. 8. And *James* ſaith, *of his own Will begat He us, by the word of Truth,* James. 1, 18.

So God's People are begotten by the Word of Truth, being Born again, nor of Corruptible Seed, but of Incorruptible, by the Word of God, which lives, and abides, and endures forever; and ſo as new Born Babes deſire the ſincere Milk of the Word, that they may grow thereby. 1 *Pet.* 23. and 22.

And *John* ſaith, *That which was from the Beginning, which we have heard, which we have ſeen with our Eyes, and our Hands have handled of the Word of Life;* That *Declare we unto you, that ye alſo might*

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have Fellowship with us; and truly our Fellowship is with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John, 1. 1. 2, 3. And this Word is no new Commandment; for *John* saith, *I Write no new Commandment unto you, but an Old Commandment, which you had from the beginning: The Old Commandment is the Word, which ye have heard from the Beginning.* 1. John, 2. 7. *And by the Word of God, which did abide in the Saints, they overcame the Wicked One,* 1. John, 2. 14. *And* John *bore Record of the Word of God,* Rev. 1. 2. And said Christ's Name was called the Word of God, and the Word is called the Word of Grace, and the Word of Faith, and the Word of Wisdom, and the Word of Power, and the Word of Patience; and this is the Word by which all God's People are Sanctified and made clean; and by it all things are Sanctified to them, and by this Word they are reconciled to God, and this Word was before the Confusion of *Babel*, with their many Languages, which the Priests and the VVorld called the Original. And *Pilate* set a Superscription, in Letters of *Hebrew*, *Greek*, and *Latin*, upon *Christ*, when they Crucified him: And the Beast, and the VVhore, and the false Church, had power over the Natural Tongues and Languages; as in *Rev.* 13. 7. and 17. 15. But the VVord of God was before their Tongues and Languages were; and Natural Men with their Natural Arts and Sciences, and Tongues, do not know the things of God; for Natural Men, in their Natural Schools, may learn their natural Arts and Sciences, and their Natural Tongues, and their Natural Religions, and so be Natural Ministers: But they that hear Christs Voice, and Learn of Him, and are bred up in His School, are made able Ministers of His Everlasting Word.

VIII. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of our true* Hope, *distinct from the* Hope *of the* Hypocrite, *that perishes.*

THE Mystery which hath been hid from ages and generations, is now made manifest to the Saints, which is Christ in you, the Hope of Glory, whom we Preach; warning every Man, and teaching every Man in all Wisdom, that we may present every Man perfect in Christ Jesus. *Colos.* 1. 27. 28. And every Man

that

that hath this Hope in him, purifies himself, even as he is Pure, 1. *John*, 3. 3. And we are saved by Hope, as in *Rom.* 8. 24. So that all the Saints may know what is the Hope of their Calling; for we being saved by Hope, are saved by Christ, who is to dwell in our Hearts by Faith; for the Apostle saith, *The Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Hope.* 1. Tim. 1. And we are to hold fast this Hope that is set before us, which we have as an Anchor of the Soul, both sure and stedfast; and it entereth into that which is within the Vail, where the Fore-runner is for us entered in, even Jesus. *Heb.* 6. 18, 19, 20. And blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant Mercy, hath begotten us again unto his lively Hope, by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead, to an Inheritance Immortal, and Undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for the Saints, which are kept by the power of God through Faith unto Salvation, 1. *Pet.* 3. 4, 5.

Here you may see the Saints that are in this True and Living Hope, have an Inheritance Immortal and Undefiled, who are kept by the power of God, through Faith unto Salvation.

IX. *Now concerning the* Antiquity *of our* Gospel.

THE Apostle tells the *Romans*, *That the Gospel of Christ, is the power of God to every One that Believes: For by the Gospel, the Righteousness of God is revealed, from Faith to Faith; so that the Just, shall live by his Faith.* Rom. 1. 16, 17, 18.

And again, the *Apostle* saith, *The Gospel which hath been Preached to every Creature under Heaven.* Col 1. 23. For Christ said unto His Disciples, *Go ye into all the World, and Preach the Gospel to every Creature.* Mark 16. 15.

And God will judge the Secrets of Mens Hearts by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel, saith the Apostle, *He being the Heir of it, that is according to the power of God, which is Preached to every Creature under Heaven.*

And the Gospel was Preached to Abraham, *saying, In thy Seed shall all Nations be Blessed.* And was not this Gospel Preached to *Abraham*, 430 Years before the Law of *Moses* was given forth? For unto *Abraham* and his Seed, was the Promise made. He said not unto

unto Seeds, as speaking of many, but unto thy Seed, as of one, which Seed is Christ, as in *Gal.* 3. 8, 16, 17. So in this Seed Christ, are all Nations and Families of the Earth Blessed: Therefore all Nations and Families of the Earth must come into Christ, the Seed, that bruises the Serpents Head, if they be Blessed, and then they who are of the Seed, through Faith, are Blessed, with Faithful *Abraham*. For the Children of the Promise are counted for the Seed, as in *Rom.* 9. 8. And therefore all Nations and Families of the Earth must come into the Seed, if they be Blessed; and they that be in the Seed, and are Baptized into Christ, have put Him on; and there, in Christ, is neither *Jew* nor *Greek*, *Bond* nor *Free*, *Male* nor *Female*, they are all one in Christ. *Gal.* 3. 26, 28. And so are all the Sons of God, by Faith in Christ. Now this Everlasting Gospel and Promise was Preached to *Abraham*, 430 Years before the Law was given to *Moses*; saying, *In thy Seed shall all Nations and Families of the Earth be Blessed*. And was it not Preached to *Adam*? when God said, *The Seed of the Woman shall bruise the Serpents Head*. And when Christ came forth, He sent His Disciples into all Nations, to Preach the Gospel to every Creature under Heaven, as before. And *John* in the *Revelations*, who saw the *Night* of *Apostacy*, and *Babylon* Fall, saw the *Angel* fly in the midst of Heaven, having the Everlasting Gospel to Preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every Nation, and Kindred, and Tongue, and People; saying with a loud Voice, *Fear God, and give Glory to Him; for the Hour of His Judgment is come, and Worship Him that made Heaven and Earth, and the Sea, and Fountains of Water*, Rev. 14. 6, 7. So this is the Everlasting Gospel, which is Preacht by the Holy Ghost, sent down from Heaven. Now many may have the Letter of the Scripture, and the Form of Holy Mens Words; For the *Jews* had *Abraham's*, and the Prophets Words, as the Christians have Christs and the Apostles Words, *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John*; and so may put the Letter for the Gospel: put the Letter of the Scripture declareth what the Gospel is outward Scripture of Letters may be worn out; but the Gospel is Everlasting, which is the thing that the Scripture Declareth of; for he that Preacheth any other Gospel (the *Apostle* saith) let him be accursed. For the Gospel, which the *Apostles* Preacht and Taught, was not of Man, neither did they receive it of Men, but by the Revelation of Jesus Christ. *Gal.* 1. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. And this

is the Everlasting Gospel of Life and Salvation; Saying, in thy Seed shall all Nations be Blessed. Now Men may be taught the outward Letter of the Scripture, and receive that from Men in the Natural State; but that which the Scripture, or Letter, Declareth of, is Revealed by Jesus Christ (namely) the Everlasting Gospel, the Seed, in which all Nations are Blessed: and for the Defence of this Gospel were the *Apostles* set, in their Day; and so have I, and many others in our Day and Age; against the Letter-wise Christians, as the *Apostles* were against the outward Letter-wise *Jews*: and see what Opposition the Letter-wise made then, and now; that profest the Gospel in VVords, but did, nor do not come into the Seed, in which all are Blessed, and which brings Life and Immortality to Light, to all them that are in Christ the Seed.

X. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of the* True Ministers.

Moses, and *Aaron*, and the *Prophets*, were all sent of God, in the *Old Testament*: and the Lord commanded *Moses* to take Twelve Rods, and write every Man's Name, that were the Heads of the House of their Fathers, upon the Rods; so one Rod for every Prince, according to the House of their Fathers, even twelve Rods; and *Aarons* Rod was among their Rods: and *Moses* laid their Rods before the Lord, in the *Tabernacle* of *Witness*: and on the Morrow, *Moses* took all the Rods, and *Aarons* Rod; and behold *Aarons* Rod, for the House of *Levi*, was Budded, and brought forth Budds, and Blossoms, and Ripe Almonds; but the rest of the Heads of *Israels* Rods, brought forth nothing. So the Lord chose the House of *Levy* to serve Him, in the outward *Tabernacle*. *Numb.* 17. And so the Lord chooseth in His *New Testament* and *Covenant*, whose Spiritual Rods do Bud in the *Inward Tabernacle*, to serve Him in the *Inward Tabernacle*, to be a Holy, Royal Priesthood, to offer up Spiritual Sacrifices to God, by Jesus Christ. 1. *Pet.* 2. 5, 9. And *John*, the greatest Prophet Born of a Woman, was a Man sent from God, *John* 1. 6. and *Mark* 1. 8. And Christ said the Living Father sent Him, as in *John* 6. 57. And Christ said, *As thou didst send me into the World, so have I sent them into the World* (namely his Disciples:) and the *Apostles* did Believe that God had sent *Christ*, as in *John* 17. 8. 18.

And

And Christ called his Twelve Disciples, and sent them forth to Preach, and gave them Power: and said unto them, freely ye have Received, and freely give, as in *Matt.* 10. 1. to the End.

There you may see how Christ doth Incourage his Free Ministers, and likewise in *Mark* 9. from the 1. to the 6. And Christ said unto his Disciples the Harvest was great, and the Labourers were few; wherefore pray the Lord of the Harvest that he would send forth Labourers, into his Harvest: And so you may see Christ here gives them Power, and they were to Pray to the Lord of the Harvest for Labourers, and not to the High Priests and Rabbies, and the Powers, for them to send forth their Letter to Learned Doctors, and to have Power from them.

And you may Read in *Matt.* 23. How Christ declareth against the False Teachers; and how that the *Jews* should Persecute, Crucifie, and Scourge, such as Christ sends in their Synagogues, and from City to City: So these False Teachers always persecuted the True. *Mat* 23. 30. to the End. And you may see in *Matt.* 22. 1. to the 16. How Christ sends forth his Disciples to Call to the Marriage: And when Christ sent forth his Seventy Disciples, he said, *I send you forth as Lambs amongst Wolves, without Bag or Scrip*; and you may see, how he did exhort them, how they should Preach and Behave themselves, *Luke* 10. from the 1. to the 12. And the *Apostle* told the *Ephesians*, among whom he had been Labouring, for the space of Three Years, and Preached among them; *and he had not ceased to warn every one of them both Night and Day with Tears, and said, I have coveted no Man's Silver, Gold or Apparel; for ye know, That these Hands have Ministred to my Necessities, and to them that were with me: I have shewed you in all Things, how that in so Labouring, ye ought to support the Weak, and do Remember the Words of our Lord Jesus, how that he said, it is a Blessed Thing to Give, rather than to Receive,* Acts, 20. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35.

Here you may see an example of a true Minister, of Christ, and also in 1 *Cor.* 9. from the 1. to the 20. How the *Apostle* there strove to keep the Gospel without Charge, and to make it Free, and how the *Apostle* Reproves such that did not Labour, that they might Labour and follow the *Apostles*, whom they had for Examples, as in 2 *Thes.* 3. who would not be Chargeable to them, as from Vers. 6. to the 13.

And the *Apoſtle* ſaid, That Chriſt aſcended on high, and gave Gifts unto Men for the Work of the Miniſtry; ſome *Apoſtles*, ſome Prophets, ſome Evangeliſts, ſome Paſtors, ſome Teachers, for the *Edifying* of the Body of Chriſt, till we all meet together in the Unity of the Faith, and the Knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect Man, and unto the Meaſure of the Stature, of the Fulneſs of Chriſt; and ſo to every one of us is given Grace, according to the Meaſure of the Stature, of the Fulneſs of Chriſt, *Epheſ.* 4. from the 1. to the 16.

Here you may ſee they had the Gifts from Chriſt that made them Miniſters, and not from Schools and Colledges nor Powers: And *Peter* ſaith, *Let every Man as he hath received the Gift, Miniſter the ſame one to another, as good Stewards of the Manifold Grace of God; and the Elders were to Feed the Flock of God; not by conſtraint, but willingly; not for filthy Lucre, but of a willing Mind; not as though you were Lords over God's Heritage, but that you may be Examples to the Flock,* 1 *Pet.* 4. 10. and 5. 2, 3.

And in *Rom.* 10. There you may ſee how the *Apoſtle* exhorts them to improve their Gifts, in teaching, and prophecying, and exhorting; and theſe Gifts they had from Chriſt.

And in 1 *Tim.* 3. There you may ſee how the Biſhops, and Deacons, and Overſeers; they were not to be given to Wine, nor Strikers, nor Fighters, nor Covetous, nor given to filthy Lucre; but ſhould be ſuch as could Rule their own Houſes well, having their Children in Subjection; for, if they could not Rule their own Houſes well, how ſhould they take Care of the Church of God: and likewiſe, their Wives were to be Honeſt, not Evil Speakers, but Sober and Faithful in all Things; and ſo let theſe Biſhops, Elders, Deacons and Miniſters firſt be proved, and if they be found Blameleſs, then let them Miniſter, as in 1 *Tim.* 3. 1. to the 13. ſo it ſeems they were not to Miniſter, if they were not Blameleſs in theſe Things.

And likewiſe, you may ſee the Qualification of the Elder *Men*, and the Women, that were to be Teachers of good Things, and Teachers of the Younger Women, as in *Tit.* 2. from the firſt to the 6. And you may ſee along in the Scriptures, how Chriſt and the Apoſtles teſtified againſt the Covetous Prophets, Shepherds and Teachers, that Preached for Hire, and Filthy Lucre; and how that

that the true Prophets, Chriſt and the Apoſtles ſpoke forth freely, and did ſuffer by the Hirelings, and the Covetous, that Taught for Filthy Lucre.

And Chriſt bid his Diſciples and Believers to wait at *Jeruſalem*, until they were indued with Power from on High, and they ſhould Receive the *Holy* Ghoſt, and then they ſhould be Witneſſes of Chriſt, both in *Jeruſalem*, and in all *Judea*, and *Samaria*, and unto the utmoſt Parts of the Earth, as in *Acts* 1. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Now, here you may ſee the Primitive Ordination of Chriſt's *Miniſters*; they had their Gifts from Chriſt, and were indued with Power from on High, and they received the Holy Ghoſt, and every one was to Miniſter as they had received the Gift from Chriſt: ſo theſe were not indued with Power from Below, nor from the High Prieſts, nor Kings, nor Emperors, nor Men, nor Schools, nor Colledges; but they were indued with Power from on High, and their Gifts they had from Chriſt that aſcended on *High*, above all Principalities, Powers, Thrones and Dominions: ſo here is the Antiquity, and firſt Ordination of Chriſt's Miniſters, and Teachers, according to the Scripture which we own.

And God, who poured out of his Spirit upon all Fleſh, as in *Joel* 2: *Acts* 2. By which, Sons, Daughters, *Hand*-Maids and Servants, ſhould Prophecy, and have their Spiritual Viſions, and Old Men have their Spiritual Dreams: And this now is Witneſſed in the Days of the New Covenant, and the Goſpel Day of Chriſt; but they that Rebel againſt the Spirit of God, and Vex it, and Grieve it, and make a Mock of it; they ſay, Prophecy, and Revelation, and Viſions, are ceaſed; but the Apoſtle ſaith, no *Man* knows the Things of God, but by the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of God doth Reveal them; and the Natural *Man* perceiveth not the Things of the Spirit of God, they are Fooliſhneſs to him; neither can he know them, becauſe they are Spiritually diſcerned, 1 *Cor.* 2. 11, 12, 13, 14.

XI. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of our* Leader, *and that which gives us* Knowledge.

THE Lord ſaid, ſpeaking of Chriſt, in *Iſa.* 55. 3, 4. I will make an Everlaſting Covenant; and behold I will give him

for a Witneſs, and a Leader and a Commander to the People; and he ſhall feed his Flock like a Shepherd, and he ſhall gather his Lambs in his Arm, and carry them in his Boſom, and gently lead thoſe that are with Young, *Iſa.* 40. 11. And I will bring the Blind by a way that they knew not, and I will lead them into Paths that they have not known; I will make Darkneſs Light before them, and Crooked Things Streight: theſe Things will I do unto them, and not forſake them: *Iſa.* 42. 16.

And Chriſt ſaith, he is the good Shepherd that lays down his Life for his Sheep; and he calleth his Sheep by Name, and leadeth them, and goes before them; and his Sheep follow him, for they know his Voice, *John* 10.

And Chriſt ſaith, he would ſend his Believers the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, which ſhould proceed from the Father, which ſhould guide them, and lead them into all Truth, *John* 15, and 16. Chap. So this was, and is, the Miniſters, and Teachers, and Diſciples, and Believers in Chriſt their Leader, and Guider, into all Truth: For the Apoſtle ſaith, That no Prophecy of Scripture came by the Will of Man, neither is it of any private Interpretation; but Holy Men of God, ſpake forth the Scripture, as they were moved by the Holy Ghoſt: And ſo it is the Holy Ghoſt the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, that leads Chriſt's Believers into all Truth, and into all the Truth of the Scriptures, 2 *Pet.* 1. 21.

And *John* ſaith, he that ſitteth on the Throne (namely the Lamb) ſhall dwell among them, and they ſhall hunger and thirſt no more: For the Lamb which is in the midſt of the Throne ſhall feed them, and ſhall lead them to living Fountains of Water, and God ſhall wipe away all Tears from their Eyes; they are before the Throne of God, and ſerve him Night and Day in his Temple, *Rev.* 7. 9. to the End.

That which gave the Church of Chriſt Knowledg in the Apoſtles Days, gives us, the Church of Chriſt, Knowledge in our Days: The Apoſtle ſaith, God who commanded Light to ſhine out of Darkneſs, hath ſhined in our Hearts, (mark in our Hearts) to give us the Light, of the Knowledg, of the Glory of God, in the Face of Jeſus Chriſt; and we have this Treaſure in Earthen Veſſels, that the Excellency of the Power may be of God, and not of us; ſo here we have this Light from God and Chriſt, and it ſhines in our Hearts by God's Command, to give us the Knowledge of his Glory

Glory in the Face of Chriſt his Son; and God hath the Glory and Honour of this Light, which gives us the Knowledg of Chriſt our Saviour, who is the Treaſure of Wiſdom and Knowledg; which Light of God and Chriſt, gives us the Knowledg of the Glory of God, in the Face of Chriſt (as before) and without this Light we have not the Knowledg of the Glory of God, in the Face of Jeſus Chriſt; as in 2 *Cor.* 4. 6. 7.

XII. *Now concerning the* Antiquity *of our* Teacher *in the* New Covenant.

CHRIST ſaith, *Is it not Written in the* Prophets, *Ye ſhall be all Taught of God? Every man therefore, that hath Heard and Learned of the Father, cometh unto me; and no Man cometh unto me, except the Father which hath ſent me, draw him.* John, 6. 44, 45. *All thy Children ſhall be taught of the Lord; and great ſhall be the Peace of thy Children, in Righteouſneſs ſhall they be Eſtabliſhed,* &c. Iſa. 54. 13.

And the Lord ſaid in *Jeremiah*, 31. 31, 32, 33, 34. *Behold the Day is come, ſaith the Lord, That I will make a New Covenant with the Houſe of* Iſrael, *and the Houſe of* Judah; *not according to the Old Covenant, that I made with their Fathers; but this is the Covenant, I will put my Law in their Inward Parts, and write it in their Hearts; and I will be their God, and they ſhall be my People: and they ſhall not teach every Man his Neighbour, and every Man his Brother, ſaying, Know the Lord, for all ſhall know me from the leaſt to the greateſt: So the Old Covenant and his Prieſts, whoſe Lips were to preſerve Peoples Knowledge, they ceaſe, and there is no need of them in the New Covenant; for all ſhall know God, by the Law he puts in their Minds, and writes in their Hearts,* Heb. 7. 8. to the end.

And this New Covenant, is an Everlaſting Covenant, and laſts for ever in all Ages: and all God's People know God and Chriſt, by the Law he puts in their Minds, and writes in their Hearts, that they need not give Prieſts Tythes and Maintenance, to teach People to know the Lord.

The Apoſtle ſaith to the Church of Chriſt, the *Theſſalonians*, 1. *Theſ.* 4. 1e. *As touching Brotherly Love, you need not that I write unto you, for ye your ſelves are taught of God to love one another.* And *John*, in his General Epiſtle to the Church of Chriſt, directs them

to their Teacher, the Anointing within them; and ſaith, *Let that therefore abide in you, which you have heard from the Beginning; if that which you have heard from the Beginning ſhall remain in you, ye alſo ſhall continue in the Son, and in the Father: and this is the Promiſe that he hath promiſed us, even Eternal Life. And theſe things have I written unto you, concerning them that Seduce you; but ye have an Anointing that you have received from him, that abideth in you, and you need not that any Man teach you, but as the ſame Anointing teaches you, of all things, and is Truth, and is no Lye; and even as it hath taught you, ye ſhall abide in him.* This *John* writ to the Church of Chriſt, that had received the Truth, and were eſtabliſhed in it.

Now this Anointing in them, which they have received of God, was the Teacher of his People then, and it is the Teacher of God's People, the Church of Chriſt now: and the Prieſts or Teachers, that would ſeduce from this Anointings teaching within, they would ſeduce them from continuing in the Father, and in the Son, and ſo from the promiſe of Eternal Life, as in 1 *John.* 2. 21. 24. 25. 26. 27.

And the *Apoſtle* ſaith to *Titus*, *The Grace of God, which brings Salvation, hath appeared unto all Men; Teaching us, that denying Ungodlineſs and Worldly Luſts, we ſhould live Soberly, Righteouſly, and Godly, in this preſent World.* Tit. 2. 11. 12.

Here you may ſee what was the Church of Chriſt's Teacher, the Law in the Heart, the Anointing within, the Grace of God in the Heart, which brings Salvation; it hath appeared unto all Men, to Teach them, and bring their Salvation; if they do not walk deſpitefully againſt the Spirit of Grace, and turn it into Wantonneſs. And the Lord ſaid unto *Paul*, *My Grace is ſufficient, my Strength is made perfect in Weakneſs.* 2 Cor. 12. 9: 10.

And here is the *Antiquity* of our *Teacher*, which was ſet up above 1600 Years ago; by which we know God, and continue in the Father and in the Son, and have Eternal Life; which Grace is ſufficient to eſtabliſh our Hearts, and bring our Salvation: ſo that we have no need to give the Prieſts and Hirelings, Tythes and Money to Teach us; for we are come to the Waters of Life, without Money and without Price, which ſatisfies our Thirſty Souls. *Iſa.* 55. 1. 2. & *John.* 7. 37. So that we do praiſe God, and ſing *Hallelujah*, through Jeſus Chriſt.

XIII.

XIII. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of our* Mediatour.

THE Apoſtle ſaith, *the Law ſerved which was added, becauſe of Tranſgreſſion till the Seed ſhould Come, to whom the Promiſe was made*, Gal. 3. 19.

And the Apoſtle ſaid, God *would have all Men to be ſaved, and come to the knowledge of the Truth*; *and* Chriſt *gave himſelf a Ranſome for all to be teſtified of in Due time. And there is one* God, *and one* Mediatour *betwixt* God *and Man*, Even *the Man* Chriſt Jeſus, *in* 1 Tim. 2. 4, 5, 6.

Now this is the one *Mediatour* which we own betwixt *God* and *Man*; *God* having poured his Spirit upon all Fleſh, *Men* and *Women*, that with the Spirit of *God*, they might know *Chriſt*, the one *Mediatour* betwixt them and *God*.

So here you may ſee the *Apoſtle* did not ſet up many *Mediatours* betwixt *God* and *Man*, but one *Mediatour Chriſt Jeſus* the Son of *God*.

XIV. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of* Over-Seers.

THE Apoſtle ſaith unto the *Elders, and to all the Flock, over the which the* Holy Ghoſt *hath made you* Over-Seers, *&c.* Acts, 20. 28.

Here you may ſee the *Over-Seers* of the *Church* of *Chriſt* were not made by *Men*; but the *Holy Ghoſt* made them *Over-Seers*. So they had the Spiritual *Eye* to Watch one over another.

And *Chriſt* when he ſent forth his Miniſters, told them, *that they ſhould be brought before* Magiſtrates *and* Powers: and ſaid unto them, *take ye no thought how or what things ye ſhall Anſwer, or what ye ſhall Say, for the* Holy Ghoſt *ſhall teach you in the ſame hour what ye ought to ſay*, as in Luke, 11. 12.

So here they were to Wait in the *Holy Ghoſt*, that led them into all *Truth*, and not to take thought nor follow their own thoughts, but to truſt to the *Holy Ghoſt* their Leader and Comforter.

XV. *Concerning the* Antiquity *of the* Church, *of* Chriſt's Prayer, *and in what.*

THE Apoſtle ſaith, *the Spirit helps our Infirmities, we know not what we ſhould pray for as we ought, but the* Spirit *it ſelf Maketh Interceſſion for us, with* Sighs *and* Groans *that cannot be Uttered; and he that ſearthes the Heart, knowes what is the Mind of the* Spirit, *beeauſe he maketh Interceſſion for the Saints, according to the Will of God,* Rom. 8. 26. 27. And again the Apoſtle ſaith, *I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the Underſtanding; I will ſing with the Spirit, I will ſing with the Underſtanding alſo.* 1 Cor. 14. 15. And again, the Apoſtle *Jude* ſaith, *Yee Beloved, Build up your ſelves in the moſt Holy Faith, praying in the Holy Ghoſt.* Jude 20.

Here you may ſee it is the Spirit that God poureth upon all Fleſh, and the Holy Ghoſt, that the Church of Chriſt, and all People are to Sing and Pray in, and ſerve and worſhip God in; and not to grieve the Spirit of God, nor vex it, nor quench it, nor rebel againſt it.

After that God had made Man and Woman in his own Image and Likeneſs, and Bleſſed them, and put them in *Paradice*; and gave them a command to Eat of every Tree, except the Tree of Knowledg of Good and Evil; for in the Day they did eat, they ſhould Die: But the Serpent, the lying Spirit, told them they ſhould not Die, if they did eat; and ſo they followed the Serpents Teaching, and Diſobeyed Gods: And therefore God drove them out of *Paradice* into the *Earth.*

Here you may ſee how ſoon a lying falſe Teacher aroſe, and Sowed his evil Seed: And *Adam* and *Eve* for diſobeying God, were drove out of *Paradice,* and loſt the Image of God, and their bleſſed Eſtate.

And the old World, which grieved the Lord and his Spirit, and corrupted the *Earth,* and filled it with Violence; the Lord ſaid, *His Spirit ſhould not always ſtrive with Man.* So that God brought a Flood upon the Old, Ungodly World, and Deſtroyed them; but ſaved *Noah,* and his Family, a Preacher of Righteouſneſs.

And

And after, in the New World, *Nimrod* got up and Built *Babel*: But the Lord confounded him, and his Followers. And after *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* run into Ungodlineſs, and Unlawful Deeds: and God turned them into Aſhes. And after the Lord by his mighty Power, had brought the Children of *Iſrael* out of *Egypt*: How ſoon did the Serpent ſow his wicked Seed in them? And God gave them His Law, and His good Spirit to Inſtruct them; as in *Nehe.* 9. 20. But they Rebelled againſt his Spirit, and turned their Backs againſt his good Law. And for their Diſobedience, How often did the Lord ſuffer them to be carried into Captivity? And at laſt the Ten Tribes, for their Diſobedience, by *Salmonazer* the King of *Aſſyria*, were carried away out of *Samaria*, and the Land of *Canaan*, into Captivity, for their Diſobeying and Rebelling againſt the Lord: And after the Two Tribes were carried away by the King of *Babylon* from *Jeruſalem*, and the Land of *Canaan*, which was called the Glory of all Lands. And when the Lord Jeſus Chriſt came, the Jews ſtopt their Ears, and cloſed their Eyes to Him and His Doctrine; and cryed, *Away with Him, Crucifie Him, Crucifie Him.* And Chriſt told them, their City ſhould be compaſſed with Armies, and their Temple thrown down, and they ſhould be ſcattered over all Nations; which came to paſs by *Titus* the *Roman*, who Deſtroyed *Jeruſalem*, and the Temple, and ſcattered the *Jews*, that they could never Build *Jeruſalem* nor the *Temple* ſince. And thus they were drove out of their own Land, for Diſobeying God, and forſaking His Law and Spirit, like *Adam* and *Eve*, who were drove out of *Paradice*, for Diſobeying God, and following the Serpents Teaching, and forſaking of God's.

And after Chriſt ſent his Diſciples to Preach the Goſpel of Life and Salvation unto all Nations, and to every Creature under Heaven: The Devil ſowed his wicked Seed and Tares in the hearts of People, when they ſlept, and grew careleſs of God's Truth: and the Devil begat many Anti-Chriſts, falſe Prophets, falſe Teachers, falſe Apoſtles, Seducers and Deceivers, which got the form of Godlineſs, and the outward form of Chriſtianity, and led many after them, and ſo ſet up a falſe Church, the Whore, Myſtery of *Babylon*, Mother of Harlots; who rid upon the Beaſt in the Dragons power, and made the Peoples, Nations and Tongues like Wares: and in this VVhore, and falſe Church, is found the Blood of the Prophets and Martyrs of Jeſus: For *John* ſaith, *She*

was

was Drunk with the Blood of the Prophets and Martyrs of Jesus: that is with Heavenly *Jerusalems* Childrens Blood: For Heavenly *Jerusalem*, the Bride, the Lambs VVife, is the Mother of all the true Christians that Believe in the Light, and are Children of the Light, and receive Christ, who gives them Power to become the Sons of God. So this VVhore, or false Church, went from the true Mother, Heavenly *Jerusalem*, and from Christ the true Husband; and become the Mother of Harlots, the Whore, that Drank the Blood of the Martyrs, and got upon the Persecuting Beast in the Dragons power; but the Judgment of the great Whore is come, and the Beast, Dragon, and false Prophet, *John* saw cast into the Lake of Fire, and the Everlasting Gospel Preached again to all Nations, Tongues and People, to settle them: and all that receive the Everlasting Gospel, the Seed, in which all Nations are Blessed, are Heavenly *Jerusalems* Children, and Children of the Seed, and are Children and Heirs of the Everlasting Kingdom of God and Christ, that stands in Power and Righteousness, and Joy and Peace in the Holy Ghost, and are of the New Creation in Christ Jesus: and this Seed shall be as the Sand of the Sea, and the Dust of the Earth, and the Stars of the Heaven, that cannot be Numbred: Christ saw his Seed, which are the Children of his Kingdom: *He that hath an Ear to hear, let him hear.*

JESUS CHRIST the same Yesterday, and to Day, and for ever. Heb. 13. 8. who exercises his Prophetical Office, as he is a Heavenly Prophet; who opens Peoples Eyes, to see Spirirual and Heavenly things: and Christ their Saviour, who Redeems and Purchases them with his own Life, his Blood: and so Christ the Prophet, is to be heard in all things by his Children, who enlightens every one that cometh into the VVorld; that in the Light they might see him, and hear him; and he openeth the Book of Conscience to them, and the Book of Life; that in it they may read and see their Names written there; which Book no man can open but Christ the Lamb.

And Christ exercises his Office as a Heavenly Bishop, who raises up his Children out of the Death in *Adam*, and makes them to sit together in the Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus; and he is a Bishop to over-see them, that they do not go out of the Heavenly Places in Him.

And

And Christ Exercises his Office, as a Heavenly Shepherd among his Spiritual Sheep, and feeds them with his Bread from Heaven, and Water of Life in his Heavenly Pasture, and his Sheep know his Voice, and follow him.

And Christ Exercises his Office, as he is the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords; who Rules in the Hearts of his People by Faith, that they all may be one, saith Christ; as thou Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; and the Glory that thou gavest me, I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one: *John* 17. 21, 22, 23.

So Christ, the Heavenly King and Lord, Rules, Orders, and Governs in the Hearts and Souls of his Children, who is the Bishop and chief Shepherd of the Soul to oversee and feed his Sheep.

Concerning our Baptism.

THE Apostle saith, there is one Baptism; *Ephes.* 4. 5. and by one Spirit, we are all Baptised into one Body; whether we be *Jews* or *Gentiles*; whether we be *Bond* or *Free*, and have been all made to Drink into one Spirit: So this is the one Spiritual Baptism, which was set up above 1600 Years ago.

And you may see more of the Distinction between *John*'s Baptism and Christs; in my Book Entituled, *A Distinction betwixt the two Baptisms, and the two Suppers of Christ.*

How that *John*'s Baptism, with the Elements of Water did decrease, and Christs Baptism, with Fire and the Holy Ghost doth encrease, who thoroughly purges his Floor, and burns up the Chaff with unquenchenable Fire; and how Christ gathereth the Wheat into his Garner; and this is our Baptism and Baptiser.

Edmunton the 2*d.*
Month, 1688. G. F.

POST-

Postscript.

The Antiquity of our Cross.

THE Apostle saith to the Church of Christ, That the Preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, Foolishness; but unto us that are saved, it is the Power of God; 1 Cor. 1. 18. And such as were, and are Enemies to the Cross of Christ, were, and are Enemies to the Power of God: So all your Stone, Wooden, Brass, Silver or Gold Crosses, you have invented, and set up since the Apostles Days, is not the Cross of Christ, the Power of God; but the Works of your own Hands: And the Apostle saith, God forbid that I should Glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the World was Crucified unto me, and I unto the World; Gal. 6. 14. So it was the Power of God, the Cross of Christ, the Apostle gloried in, by whom the World was Crucified to him, and he unto the World; and not our Cross, which we Glory in, &c. which was set up above 1600 Years ago: And it is not like that it was, a Cross made of Wood, Stone, Iron, Brass, Silver or Gold, that the Apostle, or the Church of Christ Gloried in; or that such outward, Temporal and Worldy Crosses, as Men make and invent, should Crucifie People to the World; that which Crucifies People to the World and the World to them, is the Cross of Christ, the Power of God, which Power of God, all are to bow down to, and their Faith is to stand in it: and they are Foolish and Dark, that think a Cross of Stone, Wood, Iron, Silver or Gold, which Man hath made, is the Cross of Christ, the Power of God; and to give to such Worldly Temporal Things, and call them, the Cross of Christ, contrary to the Scriptures, that the Apostles taught to the Church of Christ in their Days; and that was the Church of Christs Cross in the Apostles Days, and is the Church of Christs now: But they could not nor can we bow to any Temporal outward worldly Cross, that Men have made with their Hands, and bow down to them: For such as do, Worship the Works of their own Hands, are Enemies to the Cross of Christ, the Power of God.

G. F.

THE END.